

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-13 are pending in the current application. Claim 1 is amended by this Response. Claims 2-5 are cancelled. No new claims are added by this Response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 6-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,084,849, herein Noguchi) in view of Koyama (U.S. Pat. No. 6,600,465, herein Koyama). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is claim 2 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, which as noted above is indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable for at least the above reasons. Claims 6-13, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above in regards to claim 1 as well as on their own merits.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

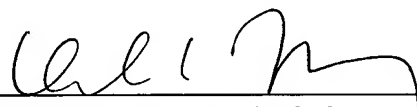
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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